Paucity of drinking water in the country

†1638. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that paucity of drinking water is constantly increasing in the metro cities and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the concrete action being taken by Government to deal with this paucity;

(c) whether Government are formulating any new scheme keeping in view the declining ground water table and supply of water in metro cities; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) As per information provided by the Ministry of Urban Development, shortage of water for drinking purposes is not anticipated in near future. With a view to provide safe drinking water supply to urban population, the Ministry of Urban Development has initiated a reforms linked programme called Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) under which additional central assistance is made available to 63 selected cities including mega/metro cities, state capitals and other important cities for the development of integrated urban infrastructure including those for water supply. A similar programme called Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Town (UIDSSMT) has also been launched by the Ministry of Urban Development along with JNNURM, for the improvement of drinking water supply in 5098 small and medium towns and cities (as per census 2001) not covered under JNNURM. Both the programmes *viz.* JNNURM & UIDSSMT are being implemented in a mission mode during the seven year period from 2005-06 to 2012-13.

In view of the declining ground water levels in some areas, necessary measures have been taken by the State Governments and Central Government which include rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge. The Government of India has also drafted a "Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water" and circulated to all

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State Government for enactment of legislation. So far 8 States/Union Territories have enacted legislation in their respective States. Action has already been initiated by 20 States/Union Territories. 7 States/Union Territories have taken a view that such legislation is not necessary.

The Finance Minister in his budget Speech 2007-08 has announced a scheme for ground water recharge through diversion of rainwater in "dug wells" which provides for 100% subsidy to small & medium farmers and 50% subsidy to other farmers.

(d) Does not arise.

Minor irrigation programmes

1639. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress in launching a comprehensive national programme for minor irrigation of all lands owned by Dalits and Adivasis, as assured in the NCMP of Government;

(b) whether such programme is not launched so far, what are the reasons for delay; and

(c) who is responsible for not launching such programme meant for SCs and STs in rural India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) In view of the Provisions in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) that the Government will launch a comprehensive national programme for minor irrigation of all lands owned by Dalits and Adivasis, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated a special programme to provide 100 percent financial assistance to states for taking up minor irrigation schemes for lands owned by STs during 2005-06. For the purpose, the Planning Commission had earmarked an amount of Rs. 50 crore during 2005-06 and Rs. 150 crore during 2006-07 in the budget of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.